

WHY RELIGION STINKS

And Why No Two Relationships With God Will Ever Be Exactly The Same

IT MUST HAVE MESSED WITH HIS MIND – BIG TIME

Luke 7:18-35/ Luke 1:39-41 & 57-80/ Matthew 13:13-17/ John 1:29-33 & 43-45

- ① On the one hand –
John the Baptist was absolutely certain Jesus was the Messiah
- ② On the other hand –
Nothing about Jesus seemed very messiah-like

WHAT JOHN DIDN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND

And Many Of Us Still Miss As Well

- ① We all have a unique assignment
Romans 12:3-8/ 1 Corinthians 7:17-20/ Philippians 2:13/
Matthew 5:13-16/ Colossians 3:17
- ② Different assignments call for different strategies
Luke 7:33-35/ 1 Corinthians 9:19-23/ Luke 1:11-17 vs Luke 5:29-31
- ③ If we're going to judge – judge people and ministries by
their fruit – not by our personal preferences and assignment
Luke 7:33-35/ Luke 6:43-45/ Romans 14:1-23/ 1 Corinthians 12:14-22/ 1 John 2:3-5
- ④ God doesn't want our religion – he wants a relationship
Isaiah 1:11-20/ Mark 7:5-23/ John 1:11-13 & Romans 8:14-16/ John 14:15

TAKING IT HOME

Living out God's call and fulfilling our unique assignment is what we're designed to do. In fact, there are probably few things more satisfying here on earth than when we know we're doing what God has called us to do.

Are there any adjustments or new actions you want to take to live out God's call and assignment in your life in regards to...

...restoring and stabilizing your commitment to follow Christ and live for him?

...making the most of the random opportunities you encounter daily to represent Christ and care and respect those around you?

...pursuing a passion and/or just trying something and getting started?

One of the key ways to find your position to play is to start serving. Below is just a sampling of the many ministries within the church where you could use your abilities. Are there any new service opportunities that you need to consider (or reconsider) as a result of this weekend's teaching?

- ⇒ Nursery or Children's Ministries
 - ⇒ Student Ministries
 - ⇒ Adult Ministries
 - ⇒ Care / Concern / Connection Ministry
 - ⇒ Tech., Facilities, Administrative Ministries
 - ⇒ Community Service
- (Check out: www.northcoastchurch.com/service)

To get information on these and many other ministries go to www.northcoastchurch.com/volunteers



The start day is less than a week away (Jan. 29)! Over 100 teams are signed up... and yes, there's still room for you! There will be awards in multiple categories – youngest team, oldest team, etc. Make your plans to support a team, be part of a team or just cheer a team on at the finish line!

You can sign up, make a donation, or get more information online at www.amazingracetoserve.com.

All money raised will go to our next Weekend of Service scheduled for May 2011.

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- ❶ On the one hand –
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WHAT JOHN DIDN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND *And Many Of Us Still Miss As Well*

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Romans 12:3-8/ 1 Corinthians 7:17-20/ Philipians 2:13/
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- ❹ God doesn't want our _____ – he wants a _____
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Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 23, 2011

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching on *Why Religion Stinks*, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

YOUR STORY

1. Can you think of anything you were absolutely convinced was the best way to do something and then later found out others preferred the complete opposite?

2. Do you ever find yourself comparing your gifts and abilities to others? What's the danger in this?

3. What is your response to this statement: You have an assignment to fulfill and a role to play in making a difference in the Kingdom.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The diversity of people and the uniqueness of their God-given assignments can make life in the church not only exciting, but can also result in some misunderstandings. How does Ephesians 4:7-16 help us appreciate the differences in our assignments and clarify the importance and purpose of carrying out our assignment?

2. Most of us wouldn't want to be known as the person that sat on the bench unwilling to get in the game when we had the opportunity to make a significant difference. Yet, we all know at times, staying motivated to serve those we encounter daily and/or playing our role can be difficult. How might the following verses help us stay motivated and keep a vision to making a difference?

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 6:7-8

Matthew 25:37-46

Below is a list of de-motivators that can keep us on the sideline when it comes to living out God's assignment in our lives. Are there any you tend to encounter more than others?

Don't think about it

Pressure of life / responsibilities

Past hurt

My own success

Not sure how to

Other _____

3. Read the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30. How have you seen the use of your gifts and abilities compare and contrast with the actions of the servants (note – modern day equivalents to a talent could be skills, abilities, money, possessions, positions of influence, roles in relationships, etc)?

Most of us have been in situations where a person, though passionate, seemed to be a bit misaligned in their understanding of their talents and abilities. Can you think of any steps a person could take to help someone avoid this kind of misalignment?